A WARNING

FROM THE

LORD GOD out of *SION*, who is Mighty and Terrible,

Sounded forth unto the INHABITANTS Of the City of

VVORCESTER,

And of the

TOWNS and VILLAGES round about them;

And may ſerve to the Nation in general, that they may hear and fear, and repent, and turn to the Lord with their whole hearts; Leſt the overflowing Scourge come and ſweep them into the Pit, from whence there will be no Deliverance.

By a Follower of the Lamb, who makes War with the Sword of his Mouth: known amongſt men by the Name of

EDW. BOVRNE.

Revel. 9. 20, 21. *And the reſt of the men which were not killed with theſe Plagues, repented not of the works of their own hands, that they ſhould not worſhip Devils and Idols, of gold, and ſilver, and braſſe, and ſtone, and wood, which neither can ſee nor hear. Neither repented they of their Murders, nor of their Sorceries, nor of their Fornications, nor of their Thefts.*

LONDON, Printed for *Robert Wilſon*, at the ſign of the *Black Spread-Eagle* and *Windmil*, in *Martins Le Grand*, 1660.

A

The Preface.

READER,

UNto whom this ſhall come; Before thou determineſt of any thing mentioned in this Warning, (as to the caſting of it by, or rejecting of it) firſt of all reade, or hear it read; and then, as the Light in thy own Conſcience, which is Gods faithful and true Witneſs, doth Anſwer thereunto, receive it, and own it, and ſo believe it, and no otherwiſe, that ſo thou mayeſt reap the benefit thereof: for by taking Warning before it be too late, thou wilt know thy ſoul delivered from the evil to come.

And you who worſhip, but not the true God, who is a Spirit, and muſt be worſhipped in Spirit and Truth; if any of the Servants of the Lord ſhould come into your Aſſemblies, to declare his Mind and Will unto you, or to ſpeak to any of you as he ſhall direct them; ſee that you intreat them well, hear them with patience, and as Gods Witneſſe in you anſwereth to what they ſay, own it, and receive it, and ſuffer none to injure or perſecute them, but let them have liberty to return from you in peace, after they have cleared their Conſciences unto you, leſt by doing otherwiſe, you kindle the Wrath and Indignation of the Lord God againſt your own ſouls; for what you do unto them, he takes it as done unto himſelf; and though we are poor, yet

we desire not your riches: but our trust is in the Lord, whose care is over us. And though the world hate us, and scorn, and reproach and persecute us, yet herein can we rejoyce, knowing that it was the portion of those which feared the Lord *in Generations before us; And although we are accounted Fools by some, yet so long as it is for the sake of Christ, we can rejoyce therein; knowing that the Apostles and Servants of the* Lord *were accounted so before us; So then if for the sake of Christ we suffer as Fools, would* God *ye suffered so too, that you might partake of our joy and rejoycing, which we have in the* Lord. *But what if they who are wise to do evil shall speak thus of us, what need we regard it? for this is wisdom to us, and strength to us,* to fear the Lord, and to keep his Commandments; *and the Day of the Lord doth and will declare, that who doth otherwise, are foolish and unwise: for* Wisdom is, *and will be* justified of her Children.

I am a lover of your Immortal Souls,

EDW. BOVRNE.

A WARNING

A VVARNING

To the Inhabitants of

Worceſter, &c.

O That you would conſider, ye Inhabitants of the City of *Worceſter*, and ye *Towns* and *Villages* round about you, the long-ſuffering of the Lord, and his forbearance towards you, who hath waited long to be gracious unto you! O that you would yet repent and turn unto the Lord with your whole hearts, even while it is called to day, while the Viſitation of God is continued to youwards, and put from you whatſoever is evil and contrary to the Light of Jeſus, and do that which is right and wel-pleaſing unto the Lord, as the Light of Chriſt in your own Conſciences doth ſhew you, that ſo it may go well with you for ever: For know this, that God is juſt and righteous, and holy in all his wayes; and ſuch as work Iniquity ſhall not go unpuniſhed: for every ſecret thing to Judgment muſt come, and all idle words muſt be accounted for in that day.

Therefore in the fear of the Lord, and in his dread and power, I warn you as you will give Account to him, and make your Anſwer to him, when you ſhall receive a juſt Recompence according to your doings,

that

that while time is continued unto you, you prize it; and while the Light ſhines, you walk in it, that ſo we may have Fellowſhip together therein, that ſo you may know the Blood of Chriſt to cleanſe you from all ſin: for yet a little while, and time ſhall be no more, and the wicked and them which forget the Lord, ſhall be turned into Hell, from whence no redemption can be found. O that you were wiſe, that you would conſider and lay to heart the long-ſuffering of the Lord, and his goodneſs and gentleneſs towards you, who deſires not your ruine nor deſtruction, but rather your Salvation, that you may be ſaved from the wrath to come: For which of you knows not, but if the Lord had rewarded you according unto your doings, but you had been cut off from being a People at this day? but he hath ſpared you, and given you a time to repent, that you may bring forth fruits unto holineſs, the end of which will be life eternal; and if you do it not, but ſhall run on and harden your hearts againſt the Lord, and rebel againſt him, by adding ſin unto ſin, and tranſgreſſion unto tranſgreſſion; then Wo and Miſery will be your portion, and the Wrath and Indignation and ſore Diſpleaſure of the Lord will you feel upon your ſouls. And to you this is the Word of the Lord, which ſhall not go unfulfilled.

When it is conſidered what wickedneſſe did lately abound amongſt you, and in all parts of the Nation, who cannot but ſay, but God hath been long-ſuffering unto this Generation? Where is the City or Town where Wickedneſs was not broken forth like a mighty Flood? What tumultuous gatherings of people were there? What Shoutings, and Bonfires, and Ringing of Bells were there? What ſetting up of May-poles and

and Dancings, and Revellings, and Drunkenneſs did abound in the Nation? And mighty diſorderly and wickedly were they bent againſt thoſe which feared the Lord, as if they would have maſſacred in the Nation? Do you believe that theſe things were well-pleaſing to the Lord? May Chriſtians do ſuch things as theſe before-mentioned? Where was the fear of the Lord when theſe things were ſo? let ſober-minded people anſwer. And do you believe that it is not juſt with the Lord to viſit for theſe things? Was there greater Wickedneſſe found in *Sodom* and *Gomorrah* before the Lord deſtroyed them, than the things before-mentioned? if there were, declare it. Theſe things conſidered, with much more that might be mentioned, who can but ſay but the Lord hath been long-ſuffering unto this Generation?

But after all this you have a little time given you, and I dare not ſay but it is but little; yet this I ſay, and not I, but the Lord, whoſe Word it is unto you, that if you make a right uſe thereof, you will be happy for ever. O that there were yet in you a heart to do the thing that is right and well-pleaſing unto the Lord, that it might go well with you, and your poſterity after you! Well, whatever you may judge of me, yet I am your friend, and a lover of your ſouls, and my deſires are for you, that you may know in this your day the things that do belong unto your peace: Surely the Lord hath been very good unto you, and many Warnings have you had from him, **Time after time**, **Warning after Warning**, and ſtill the Lord waits to be gracious unto you; and though he ſuffer long, and bear long, yet if you ſhall chooſe to follow your own wayes, and not the way of the Lord, it will go ill with you in the end.

In

In love **I warn you of it**; for the Spirit of the Lord will not alwayes ſtrive: therefore take heed that you do not rebel againſt the Lord, nor reſiſt that manifeſt of him in you, leſt you be found fighters againſt the Lord, as the *Jews* were, who did alwayes reſiſt the holy Ghoſt: and though he had given them his good Spirit to lead them, nevertheleſs they rebelled againſt him, and after he had been long provoked by them, he ſwore in his wrath, *that they ſhould not enter into his reſt.* And afterwards their poſterity went a whoring after ſtrange gods, and did after all the abominations of the Heathen, yet was not the Lords love ſtraitned towards them, but his compaſſion was great towards them, and ſent his Meſſengers amongſt them, riſing betimes and ſending them; But notwithſtanding his love and tender compaſſion towards them, they ill requited him for his great kindneſs, they mocked his Meſſengers, and miſuſed his Prophets, and deſpiſed his Words; and after the Lords long-ſuffering to them-wards, his wrath was kindled againſt them, and his diſpleaſure waxed hot againſt them, and then he gave them over into the hands of a mercileſs and cruel-hearted enemy, who ſpared neither old nor young, nor had regard to age or ſex, but all became a prey unto the devouring ſword.

And yet, notwithſtanding all this, their poſterity which ſucceeded them, **took not warning by theſe things**, but they ſinned againſt the Lord alſo, and provoked him by their great wickedneſs, as their fathers had done, and became very cruel, **in ſlaying the Prophets, and ſtoning thoſe which the Lord ſent amongſt them**, who would often have gathered them unto himſelf, but they refuſed and would not, but rebelled againſt the Lord, and ſo run on in their wickedneſs, until the things which

which did belong unto their peace, was hid from their eyes, and after all this their Wickedneſs abounded, in putting Chriſt to death, whom God hath exalted, and given him a Name above every Name. And what followed after all this? Did not Deſtruction come upon the whole Nation of the Jews for the ſhedding of his Innocent Blood? O how did they rage againſt him, and cryed out *to Crucifie him!* When *Pilate* waſhed his hands, to be clear from the Blood of the Innocent, then ſaid they, **His Blood be on us, and on our Children**; Whoſe Blood ſtands charged upon them, and who is ignorant of the great Miſery and Deſtruction which came upon the whole Nation of the Jews afterwards? And it is to be noted, that the Chief Prieſts were the moſt forward in putting Chriſt to death.

Now to bring you to that which will profit you, and tends unto your Everlaſting Comfort and Benefit; you have read in the Scriptures of Truth what Chriſt *the Light* hath ſaid; that Great Prophet, whom God hath raiſed up, whom all People ought to hear, *God is a Spirit* (ſaid he) *and they which worſhip Him, muſt worſhip him in Spirit and in Truth*; Which who comes to learn of him, it will bring them *to Truth within*: who comes to learn of Chriſt the *Light*, by whom they be enlightned, are taught thereby to owe nothing to any man but Love: The Light teacheth *to love Enemies*; the Light teacheth *to bleſſe them that curſe*; the Light will teach you, *to pray for them that deſpitefully uſe and intreat you.* And what good is there which the Light which makes Sin manifeſt, which every man is enlightned withall, will not lead them unto? By the Light the Apoſtles were led *to the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jeſus Chriſt*; by the Light they were led *to enjoy the heavenly Treaſure in the earthen Veſſels which*

they had in them. And as you take heed thereunto, and obey it, it will lead you to the ſame, whereby you will know an Inheritance with the Saints in Life, which doth not paſſe away, but remains for ever: And to you this is the Word of Truth.

Therefore ye Inhabitants of the City of **Worceſter**, and of the **Towns** and **Villages** round about you, I have this to ſay to you in the fear of the Lord, and in his counſel, whoſe I am, and whom I ſerve, That you make this your choice, to fear the Lord, and to ſerve him with a perfect heart. Oh do not that thing which you know by the Light of Chriſt in your own Conſciences, to be contrary to the Mind and Will of the Lord; for now you cannot plead Ignorance in the Day of the Lord, and ſay, Lord, if we had known thy Mind, and if thy Will had been declared unto us, we would not have done contrary thereunto, but we would have obeyed thy Voice; but we did not know it, and therefore ſpare us, O Lord, we pray thee. But then Gods Witneſſe will anſwer for him; My Mind you knew, and my Will you were not ignorant of: for you knew that you ought to have done juſtly, and to have loved Mercy, and to have walked humbly before me; which was the Sacrifice which would have pleaſed me well, and that unto which my Soul had, and hath regard unto; but ſeeing you choſe to do the thing which you knew you ought not to have done, and refuſed to do the thing which you knew you ought to have done; therefore is this Evil come juſtly upon you; and ſo hereby ſhall all mouthes be ſtopped in the Day of the Lord, and every tongue ſhall confeſs unto his righteous Judgements: And then ſhall ſuch confeſs, that the Lord was long-ſuffering towards them, and gave them time to repent, but they repented not. And

And what ſhall I ſay more unto you? What would you have the Lord to do for you more than he hath done? For Life and Death hath he ſet before you, and his deſire is that you may chooſe Life, that your Souls may live; as he ſaid of *Iſrael* of old, *Have I any pleaſure in the death of a ſinner? Why will you die, O houſe of Iſrael?* And therefore let none blame the Lord, as though he was the cauſe of their ruine: for the deſtruction of a People is of themſelves, but their help is in the Lord: Wherefore forſake your own wayes, and every evil deſire, which proceeds from the corrupt heart; and every deceitfull imagination which from thence doth ariſe, and come to the Light of Chriſt, which ſhews you whatſoever is evil and contrary to the Mind of the Lord, that by it you may be led out of the ſame; that Salvation you may know, and Healing you may find, from him who is come to ſeek and to ſave that which is loſt, that ſo you may come to witneſs Chriſt Jeſus, the Saviour of your ſouls, made manifeſt within you, to condemn Sin there, to deſtroy the Devils works in you, and ſo to ſave you from the wrath to come.

Something concerning Religion.

AND further, it is in my heart, to write ſomething as concerning *Religion*. There is a great deal of Profeſſion in the Nation about the Worſhip of God: ſome would have it after *one manner*, and ſome after *another*, as they imagine and conceive in the dark, being from that of God in them; and one cryes, *Lo here*, and another cryes, *Lo there*, as Chriſt foretold; but ſaid he, *Believe them not: The Kingdom of God is within you.* And ſaid *John*, *The Anointing abideth in you.* By

which we plainly perceive, that they which draw people from the Light which ſhines in the heart, and makes Sin manifeſt, are the Deceivers and Seducers, which are to be turned from; And now the time is come, that the true Worſhippers do worſhip the Father in Spirit and in Truth; who are come to that of God in them, whereby they retain God in their knowledge, and hold the Truth in Righteouſneſs; which thoſe that profeſs the Truth, and are from that of God in them, do hold in the Unrighteouſneſs, *being Strangers from the Life of God, and Aliens to the Covenant of Promiſe*; and ſo though they profeſs the Words of Truth, yet denying the *Light of Chriſt* who is the Truth, and not believing therein that they might be ſaved; In what do ſuch differ from the Jews, who profeſſed God *in words*, but in *their works* denyed him, *becauſe their deeds were evil?* And though they had the Scriptures, which teſtified of the Light, which Chriſt, *the Light*, bid them ſearch them; *but they would not come to Him, that they might have Life*, their eyes were without from that of God in them, and doubtleſs, they expected he would come in ſome outward, Glorious Appearance; but he coming otherwiſe, after a low degree, and taking upon him the form of a Servant, they deſpiſed him in their hearts, and ſaid, *Is not this the Carpenters ſon? &c.* and ſo rejected him, and would not have him to reign, who was a man of ſorrows and acquainted with grief; and ſo they would build without the Light: therefore ſaid the Apoſtle, *This is the Stone ſet at nought by you builders, &c. Yet Him hath God exalted, and given him a Name above every Name*; and this is Him whom all People ought to hear, the Son of God, by whom God hath ſpoken unto us in theſe laſt dayes; that great Prophet which *Moſes* propheſied of, whom

whom all People ought to hearken unto: Therefore turn your minds inward unto the Light which ſhewes you Sin, and hearken diligently unto the Word which is near in the Mouth and Heart, to hear and obey it; *For if they who tranſgreſſed againſt the Word ſpoken by Angels, received a juſt recompence of reward, conſider how ſhall you eſcape, and go unpuniſhed, if you neglect ſo great Salvation?*

And this is that which would bring all to be of one heart, and of one mind, and of a ſound judgment, and to dwell together in the love and fear of the Lord, as every one comes *to the Light of Chriſt in them,* which makes Sin manifeſt, that thereby they may be led out of the ſame unto God, and this will lead them to worſhip God in Spirit and in Truth; and it is a ſure and everlaſting Rule for all People to take heed unto; for by this can none be deceived. And as every one comes here, then Love, and Peace, and good-will will abound amongſt them, and they will ſeek the welfare one of another, and watch over one another for good, and not for evil.

And ſuch as would *perſecute*, and *deſtroy*, and *ſtone*, and *ſtock*, and *impriſon*, and *whip*, and *baniſh* thoſe which cannot worſhip as themſelves, they have not yet learned of Chriſt the *Light*, who came *not to deſtroy mens lives, but to ſave them*; and ſo this is a true ſign, that thoſe which perſecute others about Religion are not led by the Spirit of Jeſus: for he did not cauſe any to be perſecuted, but was perſecuted himſelf, and put to death, witneſſing a good Confeſſion before *Pontius Pilate*, and the Chief Prieſts were the cauſe of it, who ſaid *he was a blaſphemer*, when he ſpoke the Truth: Therefore you Prieſts who are in the perſecuting nature, read whoſe Children you are. And his Apoſtles were perſecuted,

but

but did not perſecute, nor uſed any carnal weapons in their own defence; *but the weapons of their warfare were ſpiritual and mighty through God, to the pulling down of ſtrong holds, caſting down Imaginations, and every high thing that exalted it ſelf againſt the knowledg of God; They did not wreſtle with fleſh and blood, but warred againſt the Powers of Darkneſſe,* that ſo people might be brought from under the Power of Darkneſs, into the Kingdom and Dominion of the dear Son of God; and ſo they ſought the *Preſervation*, and not the *Deſtruction* of any; turning people from *Darkneſs* to *Light*, and from *Satans power* unto the *Power of God*, that they might be ſaved by Chriſt the Light, *who is given for a Covenant of Light, and for Salvation unto the Ends of the Earth*: theſe fought the good fight. And it is manifeſt and clear, that they which wreſtle with fleſh and blood, perſecuting and deſtroying others about Religion, do fight the *bad fight*, and are not followers of the Lamb of God, who makes war with the Sword of his mouth.

And ſo now, as to what hath been written concerning *Religion*, this is the ſum: God is a Spirit, and they who worſhip him, muſt worſhip him in Spirit and in Truth: which none can do but who comes to that of God in them, even *the meaſure of the Spirit of God, which is given them to profit withall, that thereby they may be led into all Truth.*

You Inhabitants of the City of *Worceſter*, and of the Towns and Villages round about you, God hath put it in my heart to warn you, and to ſignifie unto you that he expects fruits from you which his Soul accepts, and in which he delights and is well-pleaſed withall; which is *fruits of Righteouſneſs*, the end of which will be unto you Life eternal. Wherefore fear the Lord, and ſerve him

him with a perfect heart, *ſpeak every man truth unto his Neighbour*, and *do to others as you would be done unto*, and come to Truth in the Inward parts; *for, the Lord ſearcheth the Heart, and tryes the Reins*; and *who worketh Iniquity, the Lord will find them out, and juſtly reward them, even according to the fruit of their doings*: Wherefore, while you have time, take warning, and bring forth fruit unto God; leſt the overflowing ſcourge come and ſweep you into the Pit, from whence no Redemption will be found.

But if after all this, you harden your hearts againſt the Lord, and remain ſtiff-necked and rebellious againſt him, by adding ſin unto ſin, and ſo grieve the Spirit of the Lord, which will not alwayes ſtrive with you, though he hath ſuffered long, and born long with you, and waited long to be gracious unto you; yet the Day of the Lord will come upon you when you are not aware of it, like a Thief in the night; and when you cry, *Peace, peace*, and think that you are ſafe, then will ſudden deſtruction be at the door; therefore while you have a little time, O that you would prize it, and repent, and turn to the Lord, and ſeek him with your whole hearts, that mercy you may find.

So now, whether you hear, or whether you forbear, if you ſhall ſtill go on to do wickedly, then let your blood remain upon your own heads; for hitherto I am clear herein, and have the Anſwer of a good Conſcience with the Lord, in obedience unto whom I have thus far proceeded to warn you, that you may be ſaved from the wrath to come.

And though I may meet with ſcoffs, and reproaches, and ſcornings from ſome, yet my Reward is with the Lord, and I have learned to paſſe by and forgive them;

them ; the reproach of Christ to me being greater riches than the treasures of this world. And thus my Light I have not hid under a Bushel, but in the fear of God have I cleared my Conscience unto you : and whoso takes not warning, let their blood remain upon their own heads.

Therefore from the *Highest* to the *Lowest*, without respect to the persons of any, hear the Word of the Lord, Repent and turn unto God with your whole hearts, and let the time past suffice wherein you have lived in doing those things which you ought not to have done ; and for the time to come approve your hearts unto God, by doing those things which are just and right, and well-pleasing in his sight, as the *Light of Christ in your own Consciences* doth shew you, that so your sins may be blotted out, and times of refreshment you may know from the presence of the Lord; Unto whom all Praises, and Thanksgiving, and Dominion belongs for evermore, *Amen*.

Worcester the 20th of the
8th Month, 1660.

From a lover of Truth and Righteousness, who waits to see it set up and exalted over all Deceit.

E. B.

THE END.